



# retrofuturism

inside: *The Gateway's* spring fashion pullout special video interviews and behind-the-scenes at [thegatewayonline.com](http://thegatewayonline.com)

# THE GATEWAY



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inside



## Pushed to the limit

Everyone on campus deals with stress in one form or another. The first in *The Gateway's* mental health series covers the perennial student issue.

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## A creative take on a traditional tale

Actress Ava Jane Markus reflects on her role as the iconic Esmeralda in Catalyst Theatre's new *Hunchback*.

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## Dreams to continue their legacy

The Puck Pandas will have their sights set on claiming their eighth CIS banner this weekend at nationals.

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## NEW ELECTION CALLED FOR SU VPSL



MATT HIRJI

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME The DIE Board ruled to hold new elections for VPSL.

Judicial body ruled that the only way to "restore fairness" was to cancel the race

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

The race for Vice President (Student Life) in this year's Students' Union executive elections has been deemed "irreparably tainted," resulting in a new ballot for the race.

The Discipline, Enforcement, and Interpretation (DIE) Board, the judicial body of the SU, ruled Wednesday night that because of a mass email sent on behalf of VP (Student Life) candidate David McBean, the election would have to be cancelled. McBean's email reached some 600 Orientation volunteers, reminding them of the election.

The email contravened SU election bylaws because it wasn't sent out by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the message wasn't shared with McBean's competitor, Colten Yamagishi.

However, the email was sent out with the permission of CRO Jaskaran Singh, meaning that McBean was not penalized. As such, Chief Tribune Megan Mickalyk said that a new election was "the only possible way to restore fairness."

"We do find there was approval within the meaning of the bylaw for this email to go out [...] and we find that it is the responsibility of the CRO to ensure he has adequately reviewed all these items before giving

his approval," she said. "On these grounds, I would order new by-elections and we will be willing to take some submissions on how this will be carried out. We find that this election was irreparably tainted."

**"I would order new by-elections [...] We find that this election was irreparably tainted."**

MEGAN MICKALYK  
DIE BOARD CHIEF TRIBUNE

The two candidates involved asked the board to consider an alternate course of action after the ruling had been delivered. They suggested that McBean's mass email to Orientation volunteers be balanced by a mass email from Yamagishi to all student residents. McBean was an Orientation program co-ordinator, while Yamagishi is active in residence life.

However, the board had already released the ruling and asked the candidates for suggestions on what course of action it should take in holding new elections, as the tribunal was unsure on how to proceed.

PLEASE SEE ELECTIONS • PAGE 3

## New student card could improve access to information

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

An idea from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology could see University of Alberta students able to access academic information at schools such as the University of Calgary and other postsecondary institutions in the province using nothing more than a barcode on their cell phone.

The proposed Alberta-wide student card would allow students to access libraries, along with academic information such as transcripts, from institutions all over the province, according to Minister Greg Weadick, who is working on the initiative.

"[It will have] one point of access [...] to make it as streamlined and smooth

for students as we can," he said.

"That's really the goal. So a student from MacEwan, if he happens to be at the U of A, he can access information that he needs there. That's really the critical part," Weadick said, adding that while this access could be through a conventional card like the U of A's OneCard, the province was considering a higher tech system where students could use their personal cell phones.

Weadick noted that almost all students have cell phones now, commenting that most "don't even own a wristwatch anymore."

"Those phones are their life, and we want to make sure that they can connect to all those services. We want to make all those services available, especially with the new cost of books,

and e-books, we want to make things as accessible to students wherever they're at."

Weadick explained that the initiative was designed with students in mind, and is something he has been working on since he was the Parliamentary Assistant to the previous Advanced Education and Technology Minister, Doug Horner.

"We've looked at a number of options. It's really an information database that you need to be able to access, so if a student wants to approach a college or a different university, they can pull their transcripts in and have them viewed," Weadick said. "We want to make it as student friendly as possible."

Students' Union Vice President (External) Aden Murphy said that

the cell phone aspect of the initiative seemed like a good way of adapting to new technology.

"If it's done well it could be kind of cool. If it's done poorly it could be an administrative nightmare that the U of A would have to deal with. The moral of the story is that we're open to hearing more information on it," Murphy said. He added that while it would benefit Albertan students on the whole, it was probably going to be more beneficial to smaller institutions than U of A students.

Weadick said that he was looking to move forward with the initiative throughout the year, after bringing the idea back to Campus Alberta in the spring to discuss the idea with Alberta's colleges and universities.

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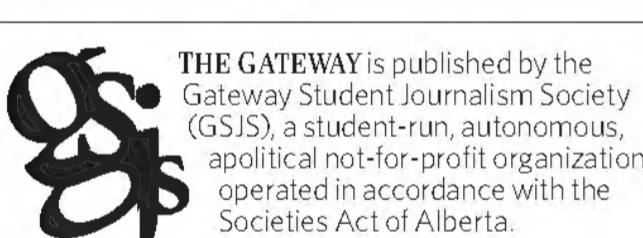
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## colophon

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# New minister sees students as partners

ROSS VINCENT  
News Staff

There's a new voice taking charge of Alberta's postsecondary system.

Greg Weadick was recently appointed as the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. The MLA for Lethbridge West was sworn in as minister on February 18 after serving two years as parliamentary assistant to his predecessor Doug Horner.

"It's been really exciting the first two weeks. Our postsecondaries are such exciting places to be and work with. The research in this province is just phenomenal," Weadick said.

A graduate of the University of Lethbridge, Weadick applauds Alberta's postsecondary system for its breadth and accessibility.

"It's a system that offers almost any kind of training to almost any person no matter what your age, your status, [and] whether you have the money or not. We try to make it as accessible as possible," he said. "We want Albertans to have a chance to get an education, so I'm really focused on accessibility, affordability, and [...] transferability, so the young people taking training in one institution have the greatest opportunity to move amongst institutions and maintain credit for what they've taken."

Weadick's primary goals in his new portfolio are dealing with over-enrolment and expanding graduate research.

"Many of our programs are seeing more students apply than we can handle right now, so we need to



DANIEL FLORES

**MAN IN CHARGE** Weadick (third from left) is pictured at the roundtable on postsecondary held at the U of A last month.

continue to create capacity within the system," Weadick said. "Many of our colleges now are moving into the area of applied research, and we want to make sure that we can create those opportunities for them."

Last year, student lobby groups put forward a proposal to prevent institutions from imposing mandatory non-instructional fees without student approval. Though the proposal is still under consideration, Weadick said he was in favour of it and encouraged a stronger student voice.

"[Students] are our partners in education and we've got to include them in the decision-making, especially where it impacts their costs," Weadick said. "We firmly believe that the students that are going to have to pay the bill should have some say in

making that decision."

One of the more recent decisions that students have expressed displeasure about came with last month's provincial budget. The province suspended funding to the Access to the Future fund, an initiative by the provincial government to match all private donations to postsecondary institutions, for two years. Unable to

match \$700 million in donations with only \$49 million available, Weadick said the fund can't fulfill its promise at present.

Weadick took over the portfolio when former minister Doug Horner stepped down to pursue the Conservative party's leadership when Premier Ed Stelmach resigns his post later this year.

## CORRECTION

The teaser from page one on the Bears hockey team (March 8) contained incorrect information. The Bears did not win the Canada West championship last weekend, but simply advanced to the Canada West finals and clinched a berth in CIS nationals. In addition, it is not their 14th straight Canada West finals win, but rather their 14th consecutive appearance in the divisional final. *The Gateway* regrets the error.

## STREETERS

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Arts II



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ALES III

*As you may be aware, it's election season, and voting for the Students' Union executive is underway.*

**Will you be voting and why or why not?**

Yes, because a friend of mine is helping with the campaign for VP (Student Life). I would vote otherwise, even with all the uncontested races, because I want the Fall Reading Week.

Yes. I haven't voted yet, though. A lot of people aren't into it, and I don't want to be in the group that doesn't care about school.

Honestly, if you hadn't reminded me, I wouldn't have voted. I can think of maybe one candidate — Dave McBean.

I've seen the signs, but not gonna lie, between lab reports and March Madness, I haven't followed school stuff. I've heard of someone with the last name Tighe.

The School of Energy and the Environment (SEE) invites you to attend the next presentation in our "SEE the research at work" seminar series 2010-11:

**Building Sustainable Forest Soils Following Oil Sands Mining**

**Sylvie Quideau, Professor and Associate Chair (Research), Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences**

The extent of disturbed land from surface mining in the Athabasca Oil Sands region reached 600 km<sup>2</sup> in 2009. Following mining, entire landscapes are reconstructed and soil-like profiles are built using salvaged soil materials and mining by-products. Soils supply many services critical to the functioning of ecosystems, including but not limited to hosting a wide range of organisms, supporting plant growth, and storing and recycling carbon and nutrient resources. This presentation will provide an overview of the current state of knowledge and challenges associated with re-establishing sustainable soils following oil sands mining. In particular, results from a collaborative research program will be presented where reconstructed soils spanning a range of reclamation treatments and age classes were compared to undisturbed forest soils.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 15th, 2011 | **Registration** starts at 12:00 pm | **Seminar:** 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm  
**Location:** Stollery Executive Development Centre, Room 5-40 A & B, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta  
**Please RSVP** online at <http://www.see.ualberta.ca>  
**Questions?** School of Energy and the Environment (SEE): [uasee@ualberta.ca](mailto:uasee@ualberta.ca)

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SIMON YACKULIC

## MLA encourages participation

Raj Sherman tells students to use their votes to hold government accountable

**SIMON YACKULIC**  
Deputy News Editor

Students can be involved in changing the political landscape of Alberta, according to MLA Raj Sherman.

Sherman was on campus Tuesday to talk about the health of Alberta politics on an invitation from the Political Science Undergraduate Association and told students that, they should use voting as their voice for communicating their feelings on government.

He told students that as long as they remain apathetic non-voters, they are responsible for the actions of the current government, actions that he criticized and that led him to resign from the governing Progressive Conservative party. Sherman said that changes to the way the system operates could help

students affect change in Alberta, echoing a call during the Students' Union election for students to be able to vote where they go to school.

**"Only 20 per cent of you guys vote [...] So stop complaining about your tuition going up."**

**RAJ SHERMAN**  
INDEPENDENT MLA

"You need to mobilize young people. It's tough for you guys to vote when the election is called, because you're probably registered in your town or city wherever you're from. And that's why many of you don't vote."

Not because you're lazy, [or] you don't want to, but because you gotta go back home to vote. You should demand that you should be able to vote here, since you're living here," he said.

Sherman said that students shouldn't complain when their absence from political participation allows the government to carry on as it sees fit.

"The fact that you don't vote, and your silence, you are actually endorsing everything that is happening today," Sherman said. "You can't blame the government when you let them get away with everything they're getting away with."

"Only 20 per cent of you guys vote. Well you must be happy all the time. So stop complaining about your tuition going up. Stop writing me letters, for God's sake. Get your buddies to get out and vote."

## Logistics of new election to be decided

**ELECTIONS** ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The DIE Board eventually concluded that further information about when or how the elections would be conducted will be released Thursday.

After the decision, CRO Singh tendered his resignation to the chair of the Council Administration Committee, which was to be forwarded on to Students' Council. His resignation took effect immediately.

"The recent DIE board ruling of Case 05 expressed that the race for the VP (Student Life) was poorly handled by the Elections Office. I feel as the current head of this office, I must undoubtedly take full responsibility," Singh said in his resignation.

Both Student Life candidates, McBean and Yamagishi, disagreed with the board's decision and said that another campaign would be hazardous to their mental health.

"Campaigning is arguably one of the hardest things I've ever done in my entire life, and to do it all over again, in a couple weeks, is way too stressful to think about," McBean explained. "I'm in my fifth year of astrophysics and I want to go into graduate school. I'm in my three hardest classes right now."

Yamagishi agreed that the strain for campaigning is immense.

"Neither David nor I want a new election. SU elections have been one of the most difficult and stressful experiences of my life. We're students first, and running an SU election is a full time job," he said.



MATTHIRJI

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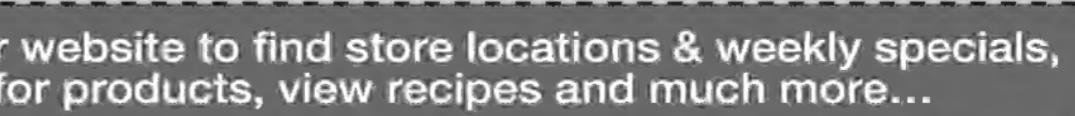
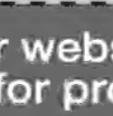
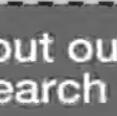
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Feature writing here at The Gateway may not be as fun as Hunter S. Thompson made it, but we can promise we'll at least attempt to have as much fun as Thompson did.

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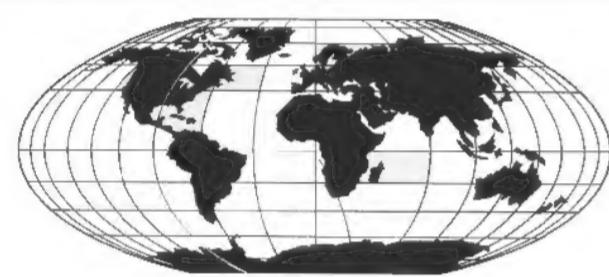


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## St. Patrick's Day | March 17th Black Dog



# Appetites of cancer patients can be boosted by synthetic THC: study

ANDREW JEFFREY  
News Staff

A University of Alberta professor is using the age-old marijuana munchies trick to get cancer patients to build up their appetites.

Wendy Wismer, a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science, was the lead researcher in a group that studied the effects of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive found in marijuana plants. The group used a pharmaceutical known as marinol, the synthetic form of THC, on patients with advanced forms of cancer. As the appetites of these patients improved and they indicated that their food also tasted better, results corresponded with the known belief about the marijuana munchies.

"I expected food to taste and smell better and I didn't know if it would improve appetite as a result. Just because this group of patients, they really suffer from this lack of appetite, and they have to really exert a lot of conscious thought about eating — it's a lot of willpower," Wismer said. "So the fact that appetite was stimulated with the THC is certainly a benefit, but I didn't know that that was how it was going to play out."

Throughout the study, participants regularly filled out questionnaires about their perceptions of taste and appetite levels. They recorded what they ate at the beginning and the end of the study and the results were very positive, as more than half of the patients who took the THC recorded that their appetites improved.

"They didn't actually increase their caloric consumption relative to those on a placebo. So they certainly felt like eating more, although they weren't able to take in more calories," Wismer said. "Just the fact that they had an appetite and felt like eating more, I think, would increase the enjoyment of the food consumption experience."

Lack of appetite has been a major problem for cancer patients in the past. After patients are released from



AARON YEO

**GOT THE MUNCHIES** The study used marinol, the synthetic form of THC.

therapy, they experience enhanced metabolism and require a lot of calories, but they don't have any appetite. This causes many of these patients to die of weight loss, rather than their actual disease.

"It's just terrible. They have this great need for calories and they just don't feel like eating. And so when you interview them, they talk about having to exert what we call conscious control. You know: 'Today I will eat because I need to survive,'" Wismer explains. "And as their appetite decreases, then they adjust their expectations about the amount that they can eat, so they try and be satisfied with the consumption of smaller and smaller amounts of food."

In fact, the problem that Wismer described actually held back the beginning of this study, as some patients were hesitant to take part.

"There were a lot of people who didn't want to participate because

there was a chance that they would be assigned the placebo. And if people are going to spend time on a trial they really want the drug. Whether it's an attempt to cure cancer or improve appetite, they would really rather be on the drug," Wismer said.

Wismer called the research a "proof of principle," but noted that there are more studies to be done before these findings can be applied in real-life.

"I think the next step would be to have a trial to see that if longer use of THC would really be a benefit and perhaps increase caloric intake. People said that they felt hungrier and they wanted to eat more and that foods tasted better and they also reported greater relaxation and quality of sleep," Wismer explained. "I think that there are a lot of things there that could potentially lead to an increase in calories, but a study would need to be longer than two weeks in order to find that out."

# New clinic tackles high risk of skin cancer in organ transplant patients

ROSS VINCENT  
News Staff

A new clinic has opened up on campus to treat the alarmingly high risk of skin cancer in organ transplant patients.

Muba Taher, a clinical assistant professor in the University of Alberta's division of dermatology, started a weekly clinic in early January to help screen for and treat skin cancers in organ transplant patients coming from the U of A hospital.

Organ transplant patients take drugs to suppress their immune system so it won't attack and reject the foreign tissue. Patients take these drugs for the rest of their lives, and this prolonged suppression makes them increasingly vulnerable to sun damage leading to skin cancer.

"I saw it as a useful service, especially in a major [organ] transplant centre like the U of A hospital," Taher said. "It lets us be more proactive rather than reactive to [the patients'] risk."

"We usually think of the immune

system as fighting off infection, but at the same time it also surveys for abnormal [cancerous] cells," Taher said. "You need the drug to keep your organ alive, but then you're not as effective in fighting off skin cancer."

Researchers have long known about the link between immunosuppressant drugs and increased susceptibility to skin cancer. According to the AT-RISC Alliance, an international group promoting awareness of this link, organ transplant patients are 65 times more likely to develop squamous cell carcinoma, a common yet treatable form of skin cancer. They are also four times more likely to develop melanoma, which can be deadly.

Taher stressed the importance of prevention, self-inspection, and regular clinical screening to limit the risk of skin cancer.

"By diagnosing [skin cancers] early, it's very easy to cure them. As long as they're diagnosed and effectively treated early, they don't progress to the point where they're spreading to other

parts of the body."

Taher saw many organ transplant patients afflicted by skin cancer during a fellowship in California. He returned to Edmonton in 2005 to set up a private practice, taking special interest in this group of patients. Assisted by his departmental colleagues, he established the clinic on campus in January to expedite post-surgery treatment and to educate patients about their heightened susceptibility.

Currently, Taher is the only dermatologist on staff at the clinic, which runs once a week on Wednesdays at the Dermatology Centre in the Clinical Sciences Building. Taher expects the clinic will expand in staff and frequency as more patients seek the service out, as well as growth in its educational role in the Faculty of Medicine.

"Part of our mandate at the Department of Medicine is training residents," Taher said. "Along the way I've been trying to increase awareness, not only in patients, but the health providers who deal with these patients."

# More money from feds for education access program

EMMA GODMERE  
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal government is hoping to increase access to postsecondary education for low-income students coming from high school.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that the government will invest \$20 million over four years into Pathways to Education Canada, a charitable organization that helps students from low-income communities complete high school and make the successful transition to college and university.

"[The] funding that's coming from the federal government is in support of what we're calling our Graduation Nation initiative, which is about taking the program national," said Pathways to Education president and CEO David Hughes, who added that one of the organization's main goals is to curb high school dropout rates nationwide.

The program was launched in 2001 at a community health centre in Toronto to provide youth with some of the most basic things they required to help get them into the classroom every day.

"What we found when we first designed the program was that students weren't even able to get to school because they didn't have bus tickets," Hughes said. "And we know that sometimes [students] are not able to focus because they're not getting decent meals through the course of the day — so whether they be



SUPPLIED: ALEX SMYTH/THE FULCRUM

lunch vouchers or bus tickets, [we offer] some kind of financial support to help them through week to week, month to month."

Hughes explained that the program now includes after-school tutoring, coaching and family support, and help in accessing bursaries, grants, and scholarships. The organization even offers a scholarship of their own. Since 2001, the program has expanded to 11 communities in four provinces.

"We anticipate that within the next five years we should be in seven to eight provinces and we hope to get to 18 to 20 sites in that same time period," he said.

Pathways to Education has received

support from the governments of Ontario and Manitoba before, and Hughes estimates the organization is about 60 to 70 per cent funded by public dollars. The remaining 30 to 40 per cent comes from corporations, foundations, and individual donors.

"We've been very lucky, in the beginning, to have some initial private investors or private donors who saw the value of the program," he said. "I think they saw the return on investment that's clearly an important part of our work."

Pathways to Education currently supports approximately 3,400 students and aims to increase this number to 10,000 by 2016.

# Pro-life club sues Carleton, claiming rights violations

ALANNA WALLACE  
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

WATERLOO, Ont. (CUP) — The pro-life club at Carleton University has launched a lawsuit against the university after five students were arrested at a demonstration last fall.

On October 4 of last year, the students were arrested and charged with trespassing when they attempted to erect a controversial display on campus called the Genocide Awareness Project, which compares pictures of aborted fetuses to historical atrocities like the Holocaust.

The university says it will "defend itself vigorously" against the \$225,000 lawsuit.

"We're suing them for the discriminatory treatment that we received in the 2010-11 academic year," said Ruth Lobo, president of the campus pro-life group Lifeline.

She explained that the group is demanding an apology from the university for their conduct and wants them to "openly declare that they violated their own internal policies — specifically the students rights and responsibilities policies" and the university's human rights codes.

"The money that Lifeline would receive in this situation is definitely secondary to the behavioural changes that we would like to see," Lobo said.

Carleton's objection to the group's usage of graphic images was the main catalyst for the disruption in October when the university tried to get the group to hold their display in a less

high-traffic area of campus. When the group refused to move, they were arrested for trespassing.

"This lawsuit is very much about freedom of speech in that any student group could be shut down if the university deems their display or their opinion to be not popular and therefore can't be shown in public," said Lobo, who was among those arrested in October.

She believes the group's use of images is not unique and the issue runs deeper than Carleton Lifeline's displays.

"The definition of discrimination is differential treatment and that is what Lifeline has been receiving from the university, especially because other organizations that display graphic images have been allowed on campus without complaint," she said, citing animal rights groups and a Holocaust awareness group who also use graphic depictions on their posters.

However, Carleton's concern with Lifeline revolves around their use of graphic images. At the time of the original incident, Jason MacDonald, a spokesperson for the university, said other jurisdictions have deemed the content disturbing or offensive to some people because of its graphic nature.

A recent statement by the university assured that "Carleton remains a marketplace of ideas, a place where members of the community can debate and discuss a full range of issues and ideas."



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**CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Mar 11 - 13 @ Halifax

**CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Mar 18 - 20 @ Windsor



# OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, march 10, 2011

## Fraud! Scandal! Election?

IT'S TIME FOR THE FEDERAL OPPOSITION PARTIES to put up or shut up. Scandals abound across Parliament Hill, as do lofty-sounding allegations. However, even as the Liberal Party warns that the sky is falling, they seem to be reluctant to let Canadians decide their fates.

With a rash of government gaffes, opposition parties taste blood in the water and have been out to bring down members of the Prime Minister's cabinet.

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda has been under fire for having the word "not" inserted in a document recommending funding for the KAIROS organization, and then denying any knowledge about who added the word. It eventually led to the faith-based aid group to be denied funding. Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff has called for Oda's resignation, and claimed that her actions demonstrate one of many ways that the current government has "undermined democracy."

Gilles Duceppe has jumped on the bandwagon as well, calling for the resignation of Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, who used federal government letterhead for partisan campaign fundraising — NDP deputy leader Thomas Mulcair even went to far as to call this action illegal.

While it's debatable how dire adding a word to a document or using government letterhead really is, the issues underlying these actions — misleading Canadians and turning the government into an arm of the Conservative party — are serious. Furthermore, the charges being thrown out — accusations of "illegal" actions and of the government "undermining democracy" — are equally serious. Words such as these require adequate follow up.

And now the "in and out" scandal is making the rounds in Ottawa, furthering the capital's hysteria. The scandal involves the transfer of funds between local Conservative ridings and the national campaign and subsequent reimbursement by Elections Canada during the 2006 election. Tuesday night, a motion passed in the House of Commons with the support of all three opposition parties alleging that the Conservatives tactics in the 2006 election were in breach of "democratic principles" and amounted to "electoral fraud."

Federal NDP MP Pat Martin alleged that "the conservatives are using their ill-gotten gains from the 2006 election to bankroll their 2008 election," calling the in and out scheme "outright theft" and "outright fraud." Martin has expressed a readiness to take the Conservative government to the polls on these issues.

In Canadian parliamentary democracy, when a government doesn't have the confidence of the House of Commons, the government falls and an election is called. A declaration that one party resorted to questionable actions in an election hopefully also brings with it a rethinking of trust, support, and confidence for the party in question. Trailing in the polls isn't an excuse for the Official Opposition to avoid challenging the government to a confidence vote on matters of importance. Canadians are only properly represented if cheaters are taken to task for their actions. In a democracy, the people who should dole out punishment on politicians are the voters themselves.

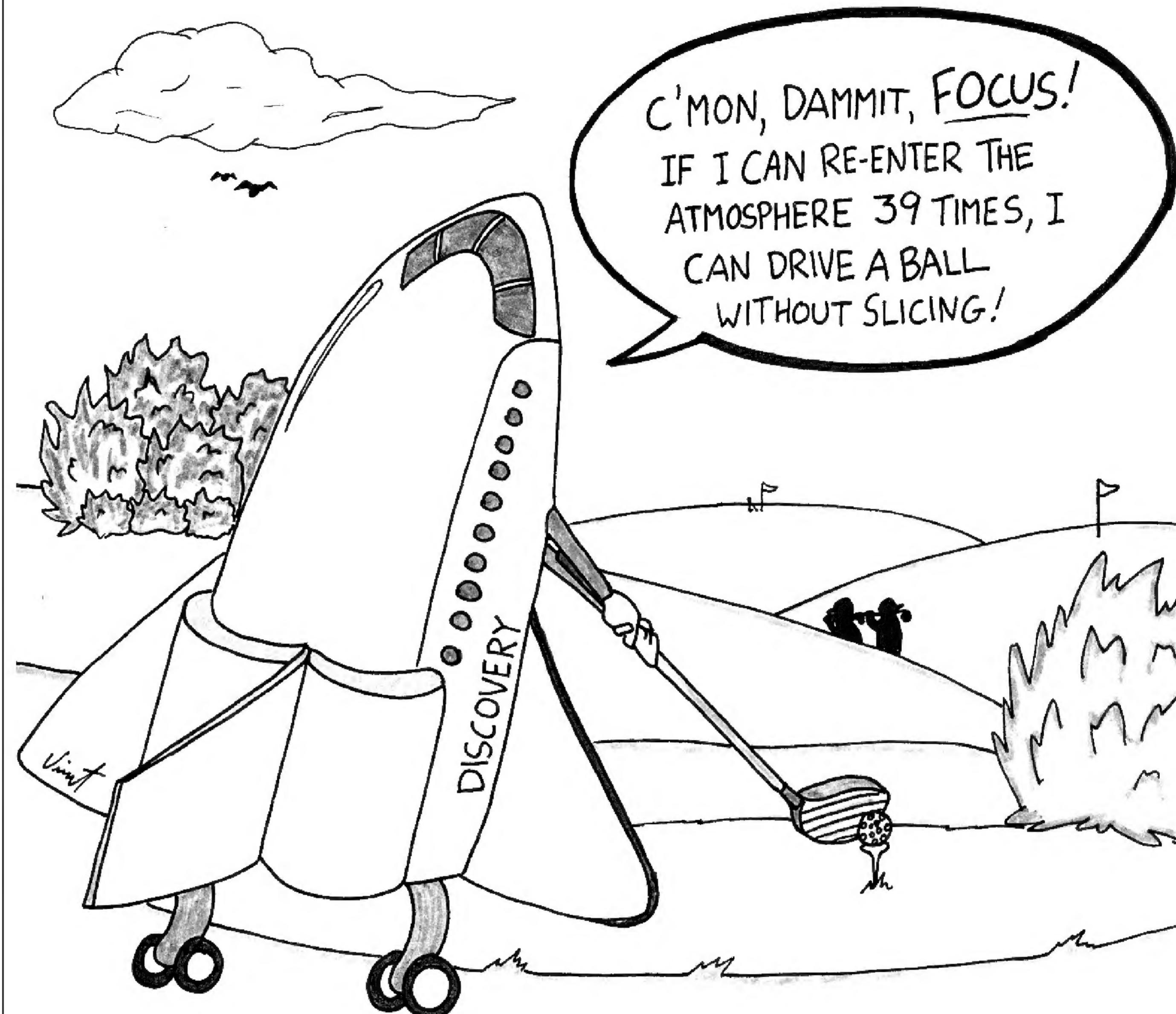
The opposition, however, doesn't seem as prepared to follow their words with actions, with Deputy Liberal Leader Ralph Goodale dodging questions over whether or not his party is prepared to bring down the House.

Accusing the governing party of using "fraud" in an election and demanding the resignation of key minister's like Oda and Kenny is serious. These aren't allegations that can just be thrown around. Perhaps the Liberal Party of the sponsorship scandal era was fine with a governing party getting away unpunished for fraudulent dealings, but a proper opposition party can't just talk tough and then neglect to follow through.

All that is needed for the government to fall is an opposition motion declaring "no confidence" in the government. If the Conservatives have done what the opposition has accused them of doing, they should be taken to the polls so Canadians can decide if they need to be removed from power.

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

## NASA IS RETIRING THE SPACE SHUTTLE "DISCOVERY"



### letters to the eds

#### SU president responds to Gateway's criticism

Like our election season, I am now honouring another seemingly regular tradition in which the president of the SU responds to *The Gateway*'s yearly tally of articles arguing that the SU is irrelevant/useless/unrepresentative etc.

I'm writing this letter as the president of the Students' Union, but also as an undergraduate student who has paid his *Gateway* \$3.10 dedicated fee unit for the entirety of his undergraduate degree.

It will come as no surprise that I disagree with your assessment that the SU's relevance is in decline. Although I am certainly disappointed with the number of uncontested races, from what I have seen, this year appears to be an anomaly. I do agree that the SU needs to continue to work on improving communication with students, and I have said as much on numerous occasions over the last two years as an executive. This is why you currently see several projects on the go to improve communication capacities, whether it is SUTV, the new website, the undergraduate survey, potential rebranding and expansion of Infolink, and efforts towards properly resourcing a street team. These projects are additional to the current communication routes already in place, one of

which is *The Gateway*.

Since the first day I stepped on campus I have been reading *The Gateway*, and it influenced my perception of the SU as an organization of resumé-patting hacks that were not representative of my interests. That is how I saw the SU for my first three years as an apathetic, anti-establishment undergraduate, before I became involved in the organization and in turn became the establishment.

This year, and in past years, when *The Gateway* argues the "real blame rests with the Students' Union," this is not necessarily referring to the 200 full and part-time staff or 800-some volunteers the SU trains and supports, this is referring to the leadership provided by the Executive Committee. So, in this article, I read that the waning relevance of the SU can be blamed on me, as well as my current and previous peers.

Now to be clear, I absolutely believe that you are well within your right to do so. We are elected officials tasked with representing our constituents interests and as such should be subject to criticism. One of the most important roles of a campus newspaper is providing space for students to express criticism. But here is where I believe you are waning in your duty to be an objective, well-informed source for students.

During the summer I communicated to some of your editing staff that at the beginning of the year, our executive team would make ourselves available to provide an

outline of how the SU worked, what each portfolio and department was responsible for, and to give a preview of all the year's upcoming projects. Following the release of our 27-page executive review in January, I again offered to have our executive sit down with your staff and go through the document, and answer any questions about the work done this year. I was not taken up on either one of these offers. Communication to students can be difficult, but it is even more challenging for students to be informed when the main source of reporting does not make an effort to understand what the SU does.

You are more than free to be critical of the work that we do, but it is your responsibility as the campus news organization to be informed before you do so. The SU does a lot of work behind the scenes to benefit the student experience, and it is hardly fair criticism to publish critical articles without making an effort to understand some of this first.

While I will not be here next year, I will encourage the new executive to make a similar offer. I hope that next year's *Gateway* team will take them up on it.

NICK DEHOD  
SU President

#### SU election leaves much to be desired

RE: ("None of the Above could be the best option," Alix Kemp, March 8)

I am certainly glad *The Gateway*

brought to attention the fact that students are in no way obliged to vote for the name provided on the ballot. The candidates have shown absolutely little to no initiative. Most campaign promises this year have been vague across the board. How sad. I am especially disappointed in the candidate "Raph." The absolute ridiculousness of his campaign makes me question his competency. I wonder if the name "Raph" will appear on the ballot or his real name? It's things like this that make this election look like a joke. The Students' Union should take some of the responsibility for this fiasco though, as they spearheaded the 'joke' candidates, which in itself dumbed down the entire democratic process. Not only do students have to pay attention to this lackluster election, but they have to be patronized along the way, by the Students' Union no less. So students, say goodbye to one bumbling regime as we welcome in another.

DILLON GARA  
Arts III

### from THE web

#### Breaking news: reader agrees with *Gateway* editorial

RE: ("None of the Above could be the best option," Alix Kemp, March 8)

It's looking like I might actually

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 8

# How to run for office: *The Gateway's* definitive guide to electoral victory



DUSTIN BANKS

On Friday morning, we will have a group of bright new faces suckling at the teat of our SU funds, and you want in. How hard could it be? Well my friends, you are in luck.

As it happens I know the secret. I've cracked the code. Follow these five simple steps and it will be you sitting in the SU president's golden throne eating caviar from a bowl made entirely of papier-mâché arts degrees.\*

First off, you need to determine what exciting wall decor you will use. Two words: cool poster. This may seem self-evident, but the person who has spent the most time perfecting their "I'm looking towards the future" face is obviously the most suited to lead the student body into the new semester.

Spend a few hours in front of the mirror every night and you too can have a look that says, "I am motivated, eager, and slightly constipated. Vote for me." If you can't handle the responsibility of making a poster or looking very intently at a point slightly to the left, try changing your name. Something foreign will be just the trick.

Second, have you thought about running unopposed? Running for a position that no one else wants is a great

way to get 'SU exec' on your resume, without the hassle of having to prove yourself in any way.

As for campaign promises, let's face it — realistic promises aren't going to move the general populace. "I will bring pizza to every council meeting" pales in the face of jetpacks for every student. Nobody wants practical; practical is boring. The odds of a candidate accomplishing anything at all are astronomically low, so why not go for outlandish or hopelessly vague?

Promise me 13 new Jacuzzi tubs in SUB, or that Aramark will suddenly provide high-quality, low-cost meals, and I'm sold. Student engagement? Voter turn out? Those issues are boring, so toss out some buzz words. That'll get the public's attention. Tell students that the department of Paleontology is working to make saddle-trained dinosaur clones available for every student. Hell, add a tuition reduction on that and you've got my vote for University President — Samarasekera's term must be up soon right?

You could also try being fictional.

Candidates who exist in a theoretical sense are polling very well this year, and I can't imagine that's going to change any time soon. If you are worried that your constituents can't handle a non-existent leader, ease them into it by being larger than life. Flatten a few cities, make some plans for world domination, and drink only low-fat soy frappuccinos. Pretty soon they will be begging you to just disappear, and will do almost anything to make that happen.

Look, let's not pretend that the student body is interested in more than two things: "I want to pass 'X' class" and "I want to sleep with 'X' person from said class." If you want to make your resume look pretty then either do it on your own dollar, or sit down and actually think about what the student body wants, what they need. I promise if you screw it up, I will be there to mock you. Relentlessly.

\*Please note that any resemblance between this advice and the policies of any current SU candidates is purely coincidental.

## readerpoll

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

"How are you feeling about the upcoming registration opening for 2011-2012 classes?"

[vote online at thegatewayonline.ca](http://thegatewayonline.ca)

## THREELINESFREE

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at [threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca), tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree)

Didn't you know, folks?

Haikus require these two things:

Kigo, kireji.

God, I wish my boss weren't a completely incompetent asshole.

I hate looking like a fool slipping on this ice when I'm in a hurry for class.

Dear couple looking for egg donor: Pretty sure looking for a university student to harvest eggs from won't make your kid smarter in the long run. However, I shall consider, because I can guarantee your kid will be sexy...and I want your money.

Yes, when you pass me too closely in the hallway, I stick out my elbows as you go by. And I know I'm not the only one...

is there a place for twenty year old virgins out there?

2nd floor Cameron is a quiet floor. Get off your cell phone. Stop talking with your friends. STFU. SRSLY.

I wonder what would happen if this was "three lines for a dollar"

Carrying a Holt Renfrew shopping bag doesn't make you look wealthy, just retarded. When is the world going to stop holding narcissism as a key characteristic of "the better people".

Bus drivers: when it's cold out, turn up the heat. When it's warmer out, turn down the heat. Not the other way around - is this really that complicated?

Where did my vacation go?

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).



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## THE BURLAP SACK

T'was a week into March, when all through the house  
My screeches and vulgarities echoed in and out.  
My threats were uttered with malice and disgust,  
But still my idiot neighbour refused to give up.

Three months after Christmas his house is still lit  
With lights and decorations, why that stupid twit.  
Santa and his elves are still busy at work,  
While visions of brown grass and snow mould are unearthed.

A herd of wooden reindeer consumes his front lawn,  
As my stupid old neighbour sits there egging them on.  
On Comet! On Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen!  
If you're still there come April, I swear it's the ban saw for Vixen!

A lone top hat sits in the street of my 'hood,  
In a puddle of water where Frosty once stood.  
As bikes, RVs, and skateboards roll by  
The ghost of Christmas past continues to die.  
You can call me a Grinch, I'll sit there and shrug.  
For what do I care, Dr. Seuss was on drugs!

So I toss my neighbour into Santa's fine burlap sack,  
So that the elves may beat him with chair legs and bats.

As I wind down this abomination to a fine Christmas story,  
I plead with you all to take forth my message in glory.

"Take down your Christmas decorations, it's almost St. Patrick's Day for god's sake!  
Oh, yeah, and to all a good night!"

MIKE CHAFÉ

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6  
I agree with a Gateway opinion feature for once! Shocking!

In particular, I'd toss my support to the NOTA option in the Board of Governor's Representative race. I know Raphael personally, and when it comes to being a human being and a student councillor, he is a kind and caring individual, and has done a good job representing students from Faculté St Jean.

However, his platform, behavior, and competence during this election campaign leaves me with no doubt that he is simply unqualified to be the BoG Rep for 2011-2012. Look at his recent Gateway interview answers: when it comes to what the worst decision made by the Board was last year, he said tuition increases, and that everything else was A-OK. How about Samarasekera's one million dollar house? Either Raph is fully on board with this or doesn't know about it — neither is acceptable.

What does he think the best decision at the BoG was last year? None! Not only that, but he launched on a speech about how good abstentions are. Slow clap.

"IN AGREEMENT?"  
Via Internet

### Raph's passion qualifies him for BoG rep

RE: ("None of the Above could be the best option," Alix Kemp, March 8)

I've known a few of the uncontested

candidates quite well for a while, and I can say that Raph is probably the most passionate of them all as far as his position is concerned. The man has been throwing out a solid effort since before elections started. I do agree that he isn't coming off the best publicly, but I would blame that more on imperfect public speaking skills than anything else. When he left Lister, he was actually coming to a prior engagement that has more weight on representing students than the BoG will, albeit a smaller group. Campaign poster wasn't the best, that's an unfortunate design choice.

I do agree that NOTA is the best option in a few cases though, and I will be choosing it for sure over Iskandar.

"YOUR NAME HERE"  
Via Internet

### Candidates more qualified than they get credit for

RE: ("None of the Above could be the best option," Alix Kemp, March 8)

This article is so misinformed and shows a lack of appreciation for context. NOTA is a legitimate option, but honestly, not this year. All the candidates have done their research and know what they're talking about. Yeah, some of the candidate's materials have been weak, but all of the candidates have been maintaining other commitments, which is not something to be faulted.

Criticizing Raph for leaving a very

poorly attended forum after his speech was complete and after the forum had extended past the amount of time allocated by the elections office is unfair.

Pointing out that Farid uses the word "fidelity" on his poster indicates that he doesn't know what the position entails is unfair. You might as well criticize the fact that he was raised in Egypt, where English is a second language. There are thousands of other words to look at which demonstrate a clear understanding of the position. The media making brash judgments based on one or two words when there is significantly more information out there is just poor journalism.

To indicate that candidates haven't been putting in effort to their campaigns is just ridiculous. All you need to do is to step onto the third floor and see the hubbub around the elections space. Oh wait, isn't that where you office is? Now I've just got to assume that you are just being malicious.

Come on Gateway... Get your shit together and present an informed article. Free and critical media doesn't mean that you can't say positive things when people deserve it.

"GATE-WEIGHED DOWN"  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) or delivered to SUB 3-04. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study.



## CJSR CHARTS FOR THE WEEK OF MAR 7, 2011

- 1. THE CITY STREETS WITH MYROL • PEACEMAKER
- 2. MIESHA AND THE SPANKS • GODS OF LOVE
- 3. DUM DUM GIRLS • HE GETS ME HIGH
- 4. SHOTGUN JIMMIE • TRANSISTOR SISTER
- 5. THEA VS. LOKI • THE WOODSMAN
- 6. SERVICE:FAIR • IT ENDED BADLY
- 7. MAKEOUT VIDEOTAPE • YING YANG
- 8. MYROL • BLUE MOON AWAY
- 9. PJ HARVEY • LET ENGLAND SHAKE
- 10. BRIGHT EYES • THE PEOPLE'S KEY
- 11. THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE • DEPARTING
- 12. WHITE COWBELL OKLAHOMA • LIVE AT THE BURG HERTZBERG FEST
- 13. GEOFF BERNER • VICTORY PARTY
- 14. TORO Y MOI • UNDERNEATH THE PINE
- 15. LA SERA • LA SERA

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# Rroll up the rim to win a whole lot of nothing



LAUREN GAGATEK

It's that time of the year again — time to roll up the rim to disappointment. You know that feeling as you slurp down your coffee while eyeing that Toyota Matrix, only to be greeted by the disappointing "please play again" banner. And yet students who aren't Tim Hortons frequenters are visiting to win, and the loyal customers making return trips in an attempt to cash in.

I admit, as cynical as I am, even I begin to seek out this establishment in the hopes of winning. But the thin Tim Hortons cups, the faulty lids, and poor odds combine to make roll up the rim a terrible scheme.

For one thing, the contest is undoubtedly the start of a university obesity epidemic. By winning a free beverage of any size, Tim Hortons encourages people to opt for an extra-large beverage, getting the best value for your non-dollar. And winning a free baked good is a great way to add a few pounds, even while most of us are already sporting the Freshman 15.

Perhaps the most frustrating is the ratio at which prizes are doled out. Supposedly one in five is supposed to be the norm; however, I've been through more than 10 cups without so much as a coffee coming my way. To be honest, I'm uncertain what draws consumers to Tim Hortons. Is



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

**FOREVER A LOSER** Despite the supposedly good chances of winning roll up the rim, it seems like some people are doomed for the consolation prize.

it the colourful cups? Is it the thought of winning a car, a grill, a bike, or a chance to indulge with a free baked good? Tim Hortons has us addicted, dangling shiny prizes in front of our eyes to draw us in. Consumers will risk first-degree burns from thin paper cups just to play the game. But really — do you really need another doughnut? Where would you put that barbecue? Does the bike come with snow tires? These are all legitimate questions to ask

before rolling up the rim.

So why not visit a McDonald's to get a free coffee? The fast food giant is currently offering a free coffee with any purchase, and you can get your drink without having to give up your saliva-covered cup. I have to wonder if the Tim's employees wear gloves to handle roll up the rim cups — I know that given someone's used paper cup, I'd rather not risk getting any diseases.

Health concerns aside, environmen-

tal waste is a huge issue in my mind. Given the popularity of the contest, why isn't Tim Hortons looking into manufacturing a better cup? Instead, consumers are given a roll up cup inside of a regular cup. If you want your coffee in a travel mug but also want the chance to win, you're given a roll up the rim cup.

You'd think that with the billions of dollars poured into Tim Hortons' kids' camps, they'd have the money to engi-

neer a cup with a better lid. Maybe even one that has a tab that actually stays down, or a lid without sharp edges that make you bleed for your coffee.

Roll up the rim is extremely unnecessary for us students, but we'll continue to play into Tim's hands. We're the ones perpetuating the use of two thin cups with a crappy lid. Ask yourself the next time you roll up your rim to a free doughnut, "Do I really need this extra doughnut?"

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# Strained Nerves

***The Gateway's mental health series***

Illustrated by Anthony Goertz

## Today

- The effects of stress

## Thursday, March 17

- Battling depression

## Thursday, March 24

- The bigger problems with addiction

## Thursday, March 31

- Suicide and students

**E**veryone has a friend or relative who suffers from cancer, diabetes, AIDS, or some other form of degenerative disease. We talk about it, tell our friends, donate to the cause, and get involved in battling these scourges to society on every front.

But those who fight with mental health issues often do it alone, too ashamed to admit they have a problem, hiding it from their friends and family. Though public perception is slowly changing, the stigma still remains and most are too afraid to reach out.

In order to shed light on the mental health issues facing student and the general public, *The Gateway* will be publishing one feature every Thursday for the next four weeks. Each will deal with one aspect of mental health. In today's issue, Justin Bell talks about an issue familiar to all students — stress.



**I**t's the middle of March. With Reading Week in the rear-view mirror and two months of papers, exams, and the pressure of finding a summer job all piling on top of one another, the university is an incredibly stressful place for students.

Stress affects everyone, and in major doses it can cause any number of problems, from heart disease to liver trouble. But to what extent does it affect students compared to the general population?

University Health Centre director Donna Cave worked as a community health practitioner in a small town for 25 years. But she says she has never seen the same levels of stress and anxiety disorders that manifest themselves in the university setting.

From students, breaking into the real world for the first time to 46-year-old returning students who are adjusting to the hectic university schedule without their accustomed evenings and weekends off, everyone on campus is dealing with incredible amounts of stress.

"People come these days from a place that's sheltered or nurtured," Cave said. "Suddenly, you're here with an academic load that you can't handle. [University] takes the 10-month school year [of high school] and compresses it into basically six months of school with exams."

Students also inevitably struggle with relationships — a major issue that counsellors see at the university — whether it is younger students beginning to date in the real world or older students striving to balance their academics with a family life.

"Not having evenings and weekends free for downtime is difficult. We see a lot of stress with grad students. They are working their

way through those two years, working through Reading Week. You'd think graduate school would get easier [with experience], but it doesn't," Cave said.

Students are seeking help with these sorts of struggles more than ever before, but they don't always realize the clinical issues stem from excess levels of stress. Numbers at the University Health Centre are difficult to determine for that reason, according to Cave. The centre had 804 cases in the fall semester related in some way to mental illness, from depression to schizophrenia.

That number doesn't take into account everyone who came to the centre with some other sort of illness that may have been caused by stress.

"The number with stress was huge, but often get coded with chest pain, asthma, [or] shortness of breath that was a manifestation of their stress," Cave said.

And while Cave said there is no such thing as "good stress," the major issue is whether or not people can manage their stress levels. Problems generally occur when symptoms start to manifest themselves, through difficulty concentrating, insomnia, or mood disorders.

Physical symptoms can also come across in a number of ways, according to Cave. Patients come in to the clinic with hair loss, impotence, or insomnia, all of which could be related back to stress in some way.

Getting out ahead of the problem, rather than dealing with the symptoms, is what the health centre is looking to do in the future.

To that effect, the UHC has been working with a number of interns and social workers in an attempt to get to students before their stress levels bring them in for treatment. Anxiety disorders, addictions, or other mental illness problems are often associated in some way to stress levels. And the need to deal with the issues before they grow into something larger has necessitated the new pushes by the centre.

For Cave, helping students to cope with their stress can help mitigate at least some of their symptoms. She described three ways of "dealing" with stress: task-focused, emotion-focused, and avoidance.

People who are task-focused go out and eliminate their stress by finishing what they

**"The misconception about stress is that people always view it as negative. Human studies have shown, especially in early childhood, intermittent stress can allow the child to deal with stress better as an adult."**

**-Dr. Jean-Michel Le Mellédo**

need to do, or somehow getting it out of the way. Emotion-focused individuals learn to deal with their stress internally and don't let it get to them. Problems arise when people decide to take the route of avoidance, through drinking, binge eating, or even substance abuse.

"It is imperative that people learn how to manage their stress because there are long-term things that can happen. We talk about coping with alcohol and drugs. Well, we have people here who have elevated liver enzymes from their alcoholism, and if you don't get that under control you're going to have scrosis. Even how you are coping with your stress can be a huge risk," Cave said.

However, there are more positive ways to eliminate stress. Daily exercise will improve your mood, according to Cave. Generally, the need to look after it whatever way works for you is huge. She suggested people learn relaxation exercises, which can shortcut the fight-or-flight responses and allow them to return to a normal way of functioning.

Hard numbers here at the University of Alberta are difficult to come by when it comes to stress, but other institutions in both Canada and the United States have come up with more solid information about how widespread stress problems are on campus.

The Canadian Campus Survey from 2004 showed the widespread problem of stress on Canadian campuses. The study took a random sample of more than 6,200 students and showed that more than 47 per cent of respondents said they were constantly under stress. The number was even higher for women, 55 per cent of whom said they were under constant stress.

Sleep deprivation featured heavily for those under stress, with 32 per cent of respondents saying they lost sleep over worry, while 30 per cent said they felt unhappy or distressed. Most disturbing is that nine per cent said they had psychological distress and hazardous drinking levels.

More up-to-date studies out of the U.S. show similar numbers. The National College Health Assessment, a survey of more than 34,000

American college students that took place in the fall of 2009, showed that 29 per cent of students were so stressed that it was difficult to function. Within the last 12 months, 44 per cent of respondents said they were having difficulty handling academics. Dealing with relationships came out as another serious problem, with 30 per cent of students having trouble dealing with some sort of intimate relationship.

Closer to home, researchers at the University of Calgary studied students who used counselling services between 2005 and 2008. Published last year, their study showed that 40 per cent of people who go for counselling listed anxiety and stress as one of the reasons they sought help, while 62 per cent listed relationship problems as a major reason.

But even the rest of the reasons listed on the survey, from academics to career and living concerns, could all be related back to stress reactions in some way.

The U of C study also examined the severity of patient concerns, with 50 per cent of students saying they were in a moderate category, while another 24 were severe to extreme. While the paper authors admitted three years wasn't enough time to track severity issues, they did see differences in student status, with graduate students reporting issues

at a greater severity than undergrads.

For such a widespread problem, the underlying factors behind stress are relatively simple. Stress, by definition, is a physiological response to an adverse effect, a challenging event.

That response usually manifests itself as the fight-or-flight response, according to Dr. Jean-Michel Le Mellédo, a researcher at the U of A and Director of the Brain Neurobiology Research Program in the department of Psychiatry. His main area of research is stress and how it affects women's health, especially in postpartum cases.

"The problem with a stress response is when they don't extinguish, when they persist," Le Mellédo said.

Le Mellédo explained that while the short-term response is generally positive, problems in humans occur when that process continues for long periods. Prolonged stress has been linked to cardiovascular problems — causing a hardening of the blood vessels near the heart — and a drop in immune responses.

People who are already dealing with AIDS or other auto-immune problems are at special risk of stress-related problems, as it will weaken their already lowered defences.

But completely avoiding stress from a young age can also have deleterious effects.

"The misconception about stress is that people always view it as negative. Human studies have shown, especially in early childhood, intermittent stress can allow the child to deal with stress better as an adult."

Learning to cope with stress is a major factor in avoiding problems later in life. Everyone will face stress at some point in their life, and being able to cope is an important mechanism for everyone.

Students' Union President Nick Dehod has been pushing initiatives to help students deal with mental health issues since his time with the SU, such as the Fall Reading Week proposal going to referendum this year. He ran on a platform of mental health issues last year, and has followed through on a number of those promises.

Securing another five counsellors for Student Counselling Services and moving a number of mental health services, from the Peer Support Centre to the counselling office, onto the second floor of SUB has created a "mental health precinct," as Dehod calls it.

He's also focused on getting more programming and co-ordinating the work currently being done by groups on campus. Events like the recording-breaking dodgeball game may seem like simple programming, but the timing was intentionally chosen for

February to co-incide with one of the most stressful times of the year.

"People don't necessarily see those as providing support for mental health issues. But if you're creating a strong community, then I think that helps abate some of those symptoms of depression and anxiety you see," Dehod said.

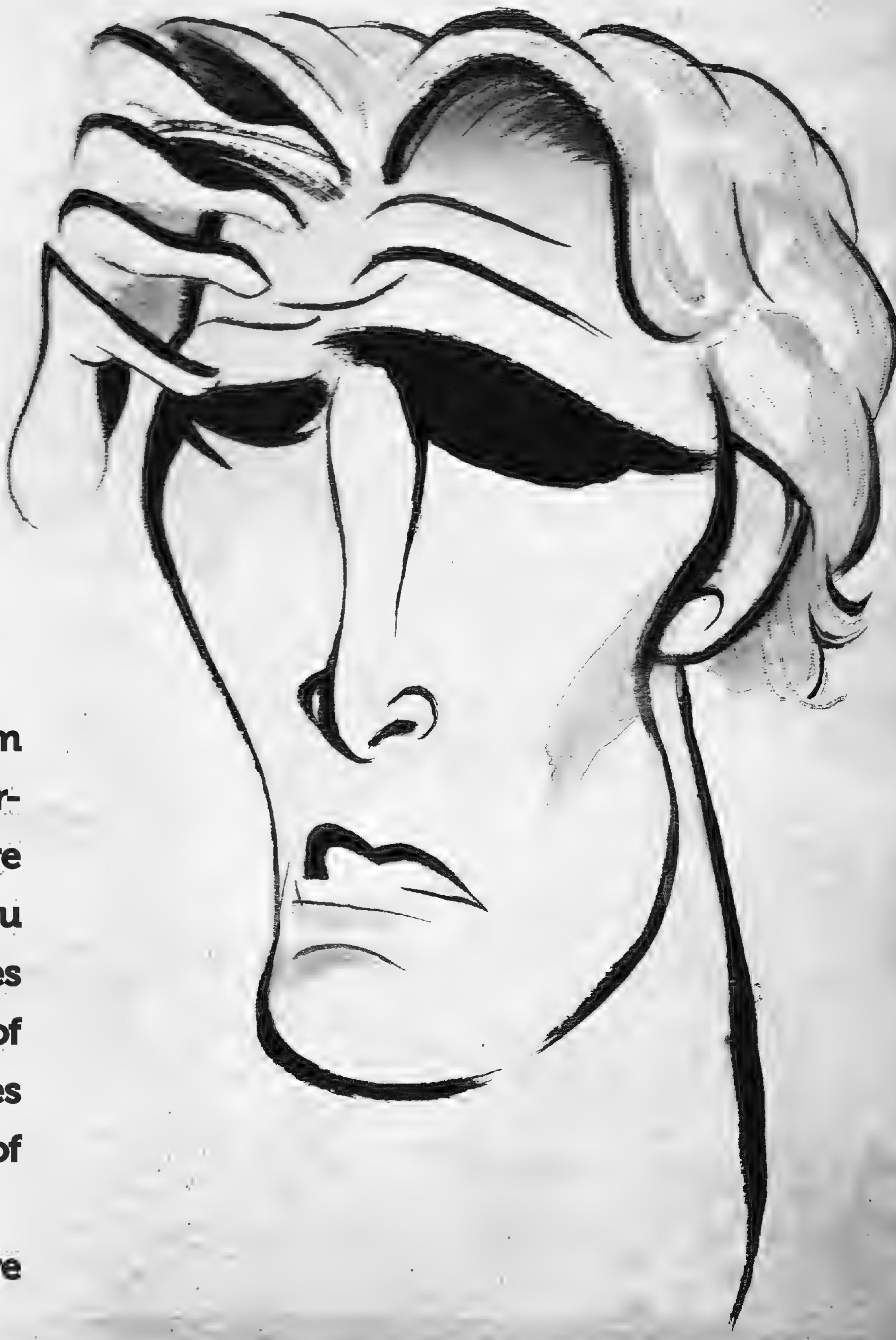
Dehod has also been working with other members of the executive team, such as current Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe, in an attempt to streamline programming throughout the university. They are trying to bring together groups to better co-ordinate events such as the Suicide Prevention Week, and to ensure programming is spread throughout the year, which would help with stress relief.

Dehod's quest for more attention to the issue of mental health was one that carried forward from his first time as the Vice President (Student Life) of the SU.

"It became more evident mental health was something that wasn't getting enough attention," Dehod added. "When I decided I was going to run again, it was something I wanted to draw attention to because it's something I don't think is discussed enough. There's still a lack of understanding of what mental health issues are."

**"People come these days from a place that's sheltered or nurtured. Suddenly, you're here with an academic load that you can't handle. [University] takes the 10-month school year [of high school] and compresses it into basically six months of school with exams."**

**-Donna Cave**



## social intercourse

### Live and Untitled

With members of the League of Canadian Poets and guest Wendy Joy

Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

Untitled Bookshop (10516 Whyte Avenue)

Donations accepted

As far as I'm concerned, there are several ways to consume literature: reading it, watching the movie adaptation, hiding your bottle of whiskey in it, or having it read to you. While I recommend a healthy dose of each, I imagine having it read to you would be somewhat more difficult (unless you haven't grown out of the bedtime story habit). But for the deprived, a handful of writers from the League of Canadian Poets will be delivering their poetry live at an intimate basement show. It's being held at the Untitled Bookshop — a place that was once literally Untitled, having no sign up. Thankfully for those who need directions, that has since changed.

### Razmatazzles Full Moon Beach Party

Friday, March 11 at 9 p.m.

Edmonton Event Centre

(WEM 8882-170 Street)

\$20 for first 500 people, \$25 thereafter at ticketmaster.ca

I saw this and instantly thought "vampires." But once I remembered that the *Twilight* movie was called "New Moon" instead of "Full Moon," my confusion turned towards the "beach" portion of the party. For those who may be wondering: there isn't a secret beach in -20C Edmonton that you've never heard of. What's happening on Friday is a beach-themed party. With a dress code of swimsuits, bucket drinks, D.s, body paint, and even Thai dancers, it seems they'll have everything that makes for a stellar party in the tropics — well, almost everything. The sun, the sea, and the sand may be absent, but we can still pretend, can't we?

### Mark Berube

With Ayla Brook, Doug Hoyer, and Needles to Vinyl

Friday, March 11 at 9 p.m.

Pawn Shop (10551 Whyte Avenue)

\$8 at yeglive.ca

Not long ago, I wrote a review for Berube's album *June in Siberia*, and I can tell you that he's a rising talent. At live shows, he normally sits behind the piano, but still incorporates a variety of instruments into his sound, like the cello and the accordion. From what I know, he and his band sit loosely huddled almost among the crowd, bringing the music right to the viewer's fingertips. But apart from playing intimate chamber-folk gigs all over Canada and Europe and having a name that's fun to say, Berube keeps busy composing the occasional score for dance, theatre, and circus productions. He'll be bringing both this theatrical flair and quieter folk tendencies to the Pawn Shop on Friday night.

### The ESO plays Zappa

Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Winspear Centre

(Sir Winston Churchill Square)

\$20-71 at Winspear box office

Frank Zappa is a rock n' roll legend, but rock n' roll wasn't all he created. His musical catalogue extends out to jazz, electronica, and orchestral sounds, so when the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra puts on a special performance of his tunes on Tuesday night, it won't all be a feat of conversion from rock to orchestra — a lot of it will be original pieces Zappa composed himself. The ESO will also get help from Ed Mann and Ike Willis, who are both former Zappa collaborators. This might be the night to leave the suit jacket at home and don the leather instead as you head to the Winspear.

DULGUUN BAYASGALAN  
Ready to hit the beach



DAN MCKECHNIE

## A dark, gothic twist on a classic tale

### theatre preview

#### Hunchback

Written by Victor Hugo

Adapted by Jonathan Christenson and

Bretta Gerecke

Directed by Jonathan Christenson

Starring Ron Pederson, Ava Jane Markus, Scott Walters, and Ryan Reid

The Citadel Theatre (9828-101A Avenue)

Runs until March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

No show Mondays, 1:30 p.m. matinees on Sundays

\$50.40 at the Citadel box office

ALEX MIGDAL

Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's a simple but powerful image: a blackened heart at the foreground, dripping with blood from an impact with a tiny red heart now sitting at its centre. One glance at the poster for this particular production of *Hunchback* is enough to tell you that any resemblance to Disney's take on the deformed bell-ringer is clearly out of the question.

Instead, Edmonton's Catalyst Theatre has taken a decidedly darker approach to Victor Hugo's classic novel, focusing on love at its "most potent, merciless, and obsessive." But while the production is filled with sinister imagery, actress Ava Jane Markus, playing the lead role of Esmeralda, believes that light can still be found in its darkest moments.

"I think we're finding that balance of darkness and lighter moments by focusing on relationships," Markus says. "In moments of the play, you feel like you're watching a romantic comedy, and then it'll flip to a scene of Quasimodo being flogged in the square. We're creating a full picture. It's not all angst and pain and death. There are so many more layers of love."

Love assumes a prominent role in *Hunchback*, a theme that has its roots in the original novel. "We're trying to stay really true to the energy

of [the novel] because it has a very romantic energy," Markus notes.

The duo that brought this energy to life is Jonathan Christenson and Bretta Gerecke, both formerly at the helm of past Catalyst Theatre productions *Frankenstein* and *Nevermore*. This time around, Christenson is directing and composing the show's original music, while Gerecke is responsible for its dramatic, gothic design — an image that has become a trademark for the crew at Catalyst. The result is a unique environment that depicts *Hunchback* in a highly stylized fashion.

**"[The cast is] creating a full picture. It's not all angst and pain and death. There are so many more layers of love."**

AVA JANE MARKUS  
ESMERALDA, HUNCHBACK

"You're in a world of life and death," Markus says. "People see life and death on a daily basis. Death is not hidden from them and danger is around every corner: there's dark alleys, there's rambunctious soldiers, there's crazy lunatics on the street calling out the gypsies for entertainment. It's a very heightened world."

This grandiose form of storytelling should play well on the Shorctor stage at the Citadel, which is commissioning a three-week run of *Hunchback*. Still, the emotional and dramatized character style in the show wasn't what Markus first had in mind for the character of Esmeralda.

"I started in a very different place with Esmeralda, because I didn't realize what [Christenson] had in mind for her, which was quite different from what I had in mind," she explains. "Now we're going to this place of sensuality and sexuality embodied in a person. What Esmeralda is about in this play is about experiencing life."

Describing the show as an "operetta," Markus

also details how music is present throughout its entire duration, whether it's sung by the cast or playing in the background. Fortunately, as a member of Christian Hansen and the Autistics, she was able to incorporate her experience performing as a musician to her character.

"I brought all of my dance training [and] all of my movement vocabulary," she says. "I think I'm bringing a body to [Esmeralda] — how she speaks with her body as much as she speaks with her words — defining that extended physicality."

Markus has also received support from her fellow cast members, whom she notes are like family. They have all embraced the show's vision since day one, which she believes is a fundamental aspect to its success.

"The first day of rehearsal, [Christenson] had said to us, 'What I need from you most is your belief. Believe in me and believe in each other and believe in the vision that the company has [...] I think that's the most important thing: to trust.'"

That trust paid off, resulting in a show that received standing ovations at its previews in Fort McMurray a few weeks ago. Still, numerous last-minute revisions have been made, including cutting pages from the script to trim its hefty running length.

"The greatest challenge is fitting in all the beautiful details that Victor Hugo laced into the novel," Markus says. "There are just so many amazing moments and details and intricate storylines, that we're trying to weave them all in. Not all of them will make it, but we're still looking at how we can get the richness of that novel."

Past adaptations of the show have achieved varying levels of success, but Markus isn't worried that *Hunchback*'s radical take on the original material will turn theatergoers off. The story's darkness may take prominence, but she's confident that the production's underlying themes are totally universal.

"It's about love," Markus says. "It might sound cliché, but why do we always keep coming back to love? It's because we're human, and we breathe it, and our lives revolve around it."



SAM BROOKS

## Alberta's apocalyptic artistry

Sherri Chaba analyzes the environmental consequences of human influence

### artpreview

#### Sherri Chaba: *The Silence of Chaos*

Art Gallery of Alberta (Sir Winston Churchill Square), RBC New Works Gallery  
On view until May 15  
Gallery passes \$8.50 for students

ALANA WILLERTON  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In the eyes of local Alberta artist Sherri Chaba, the future of the world as we know it is looking bleak. Her latest exhibit, *The Silence of Chaos*, foreshadows the possible ramifications of industry and progress on humanity's most valuable resource: the environment. Currently on display at the Art Gallery of Alberta, the exhibit allows its audience to walk underneath a cocoon of intricately tied lines of wire surrounding an assortment of farm objects and antiques collected in the centre of the room.

"This is what the future could look like," Chaba says. "My intent is to show what happens in history, and what happens in present day will determine what the future will look like."

Holding a masters degree in fine art from the University of Alberta, Chaba creates large-scale installations, and *The Silence of Chaos* is no exception. It's easy to feel small in comparison to the mass of suspended wires that encompass the space, something that the exhibit's juxtaposed title recognizes.

"There is silence in the centre and chaos in the exterior part of it," Chaba explains. "The silence part of it relates to the future. It's very quiet in that area; there doesn't seem to be too much living. The chaos is in the exterior, and that can be open to many interpretations."

Chaba's view of what the future could have in store for mankind may seem extreme, but it's not an idea that others haven't seriously considered already. In fact, her view of the environment's eventual demise is not so different from the reality of Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road*, which influenced Chaba when researching for her exhibit.

"Something that struck me in that book was the gloom of the sky where there was no more sun coming through. And so the wires on the ceiling of my piece became a metaphor for that — the gloom of the sky. They sort of read like big constellations, but they're meant to be the sky."

"It's about space and time and that the wires are actually drawings in space," Chaba continues. "It's also a narrative, so you kind of walk through and it tells



SAM BROOKS

a story as you go."

The inspiration for Chaba's current exhibit is also drawn from a personal story involving a pipeline transporting bitumen from Fort McMurray that was installed on her family's property in 2006. Chaba says it was this experience that determined the direction of her subsequent projects.

**"My intent is to show what happens in history, and what happens in present day will determine what the future will look like."**

**SHERRI CHABA**  
ARTIST, *THE SILENCE OF CHAOS*

"That was the turning point in my work when that happened, and it was then that I began to take a more environmental approach [...] It's combining

history and progress with an emphasis on the environment. So that was the starting point, that experience happening to our family, and it has continued along those lines."

Having played an integral role in the inspiration behind her latest series, Chaba continues to incorporate her family into her work through other means. Her father, an avid collector of artifacts for most of his life, provided many of the historical objects Chaba included in her work.

"My father brought most of his collections home. He's filled over five buildings full, and so I've got this huge storage of things that I can cull and work with. That's what a lot of my pieces are made of: recycled antiques," explains Chaba. "There's also found objects in there, and things that friends give you because they know that you like stuff."

"I had one guy at the opening [exhibit] come up to me and say: 'Where did you get that buoy from? It's like from the nets of fisherman.' I said, 'I don't know, my dad probably found it in the ditch!'"



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Athabasca University



# Two decades later, Worms still cranking out comedy

## musicpreview

### The Arrogant Worms

Friday, March 11 at 8 p.m.  
MacLab Centre for the Performing Arts (4308-50 Street, Leduc)  
Sold out

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

Arrogant Worms bassist and vocalist Chris Patterson will be bringing out his unique style of Canadian musical comedy when the trio behind "The Last Saskatchewan Pirate" sails through the prairies this month, landing just outside of Edmonton.

The Arrogant Worms' 20th anniversary tour is important enough to compel Patterson to leave his family at home in Ontario for a few gigs, but for the phone interview he kept his children — two-year old twins — nearby.

"The whole tour and the show is a celebration for us, but it's also for the audience," Patterson explains, with one of his children crying loudly in the background. "I hope people recognize our Canadian side, and even though we are a comedy band, we take it seriously as well. Music is a big deal to us. We've done it all on a pretty low budget too, but I think we've shown that you can do something you enjoy, even if you don't make a lot of money doing it."

"We wouldn't still be doing it if it wasn't still enjoyable. That's the main thing we keep in mind when we're considering a gig. We think about if we'll like that gig

and if it pays enough to get us at least there and back."

As well as celebrating the lighter side of Canadian music, the Worms' outlook on life frequently leaves their touring decisions up to the call of adventure. Though flying to Australia hasn't ever exactly guaranteed a profitable tour for the Worms, Patterson listed their gigs Down Under as one of the times that a tour was just profitable enough to get them "there and back." However, a bigger concern than money was the temperature adjustment for the Canadian trio.

**"There's still plenty of dumb things and dumb people everywhere, so we're not too concerned about running out of material."**

**CHRIS PATTERSON**  
VOCALIST/BASSIST,  
THE ARROGANT WORMS

"We didn't make any money, but we went to Australia in February — it was way warmer than it is in Canada," Patterson says. "The second time we went, we had to go to Wisconsin right away, so we flew from Melbourne where it was 30C to Madison, Wisconsin where it was -30C. So that was our first 60-degree swing: getting in one airport with shorts on and then getting in and trying to remember if we



packed our tuques."

Patterson notes that the Worms' longevity stands in contrast to other comedic musical groups, whose time on the national stage has typically been fleeting — though he realizes that speaking about being around for two decades does highlight his age.

"We've certainly outlasted, I think, all of [the other groups] — and I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing," Patterson jokes. "We just kind of kept at it. I don't really think the world is that much different; there's still plenty of things to write

about. There's still plenty of dumb things and dumb people everywhere, so we're not too concerned about running out of material."

Though he's optimistic that the world's problems will always provide ample targets for his comedic mind, Patterson says that he's seen a change in his perspective about what constitutes joke-worthy material. The group's children are both a sign of growing older and a source of inspiration for the trio's music.

"We certainly have different resources to draw upon," Patterson

says. "The other members have written songs about their kids, though I haven't yet. I wrote a whole album for kids as a solo project. We have grown-up problems now, when before we were just trying to get enough for beer money and actual food. Twenty years ago I wouldn't have been holding a child just fresh from a nap while I'm talking to you," Patterson says.

"And that's the reality of it: we'll always be Arrogant Worms, but we also have other parts to our lives now."

COUNCIL ELECTIONS MARCH 24&25

## RUN FOR A COUNCIL SEAT

NOMINATION DEADLINE  
IS MARCH 14TH

NOMINATION PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN SUB 2-900

### STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Students' Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Union. It consists of 38 voting members, including the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors Representative, and 32 faculty-specific representatives. Students' Council deals with matters affecting the Students' Union and undergraduate student body, such as the Health and Dental Plan, SUB renovations, and Beartracks upgrades.

**Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
2 GFC Seats

**Arts**  
6 Students' Council Seats  
8 GFC Seats

**Augustana**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Business**  
2 Students' Council Seats  
3 GFC Seats

**Education**  
3 Students' Council Seats  
4 GFC Seats

**Engineering**  
4 Students' Council Seats  
5 GFC Seats

**Law**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Medicine & Dentistry**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
2 GFC Seat

### GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

General Faculties Council (GFC) is the legislative body of the University of Alberta that deals with all academic matters and student affairs issues. It is comprised of 152 members—40 of whom are students—and has overseen the development of the University's Academic Plan, the use of technology on campus, on the approval of the U of A budget process principles.

**Native Studies**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Nursing**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
2 GFC Seats

**Open Studies**  
1 Students' Council Seat

**Physical Education & Recreation**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Pharmacy**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Faculté St. Jean**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Science**  
7 Students' Council Seats  
8 GFC Seats





FILE PHOTO: PETER HOLMES

## Pandas look to soar above Martlets in championship

### **hockeypreview**

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

The Pandas will hope to continue their historic dominance of varsity women's hockey this weekend when they travel to Windsor for the CIS national championships.

Since their inaugural season in 1997, the Puck Pandas have captured an unprecedented seven national titles in nine finals appearances. But despite their impressive resume, this year's road to hoisting a national championship banner to the Clare Drake rafters for the second season in a row will be difficult.

Facing more parity in university women's hockey across the country, the

Pandas are ranked a lowly sixth heading into the tournament and will open against the top-ranked McGill Martlets in the first game of the weekend. And while the Green and Gold have experienced plenty of success against the Martlets in the past — beating them in the national finals just a season ago — a victory may not come quite as easy this time around.

"In the past, it's never been easy, but it has also never been this difficult. Teams across the country have got a lot stronger," veteran Nicole Pratt explained. "We're not expected to win. It will be fun to go into the game with nothing to lose. That's kind of a motivating factor right now."

While the role of the underdog isn't something that the powerhouse Pandas are accustomed to, it's a role

**"I don't think it's too difficult to bring a mental toughness to nationals. The team is pretty ready and they're just chomping at the bit right now."**

**HOWIE DRAPER**  
HEAD COACH, PANDAS HOCKEY

that Pandas head coach Howie Draper feels may be crucial to his young squad's success this weekend. The Pandas have something to prove.

"I think we have to go in there with a little bit of a chip on our shoulder," Draper said. "We can't approach this

game like we're afraid to play them. We've got to show them that we can set the tempo and be in the driver's seat with the gas pedal down."

Led by fifth-year scoring phenom Caroline Hill, the McGill Martlets wear down their opponents with their physical style of play — something that could easily frustrate the Pandas' young defensive core. For the Green and Gold to emerge as triumphant in what will surely be a hard-nosed match against the Martlets, the entire squad will need to keep their wits about them.

"Remaining disciplined is going to be key. McGill is pretty physical, so if we can be a little more disciplined in how we approach the physical side of the game [and] make sure we're skating with them instead of trying to glide behind them," Draper said. "I

don't think it's too difficult to bring a mental toughness to nationals. The team is pretty ready and they're just chomping at the bit right now."

With so many championship-winning seasons behind him, it would have been easy for Draper to get discouraged by the Pandas' arduous journey to the CIS tournament this year. But there's something different about this year that's kept Draper hungry: his team hasn't peaked yet, and they still have the opportunity to prove themselves weekend when it really matters.

"I just get a real confident feeling from this group. I haven't been nearly as stressed this season as I have been in the past. I just think that we've got a group that believes in what they can do. This might be the opportunity to step up and be the best that we've been all season."

## Golden Bears aim for net congestion in series against dangerous Dinos

### **hockeypreview**

**Bears vs. Calgary Dinos**  
March 11-12, both at 7:30 p.m.  
March 13 if necessary, at 7 p.m.  
Clare Drake Arena

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Staff

For a 15th-consecutive season, the Golden Bears hockey squad will have a shot at the conference championship when they host the Calgary Dinos in the best-of-three Canada West Finals this weekend.

Three-time defending conference champion Alberta comes into the series after a two-game sweep of Manitoba at home last weekend, while Calgary earned their way into their first conference final since 1996 with a three-game series win over Saskatchewan in their semifinal series.

But the Bears will have their hands full this weekend against the Dinos. In just his second season at the helm, Dinos head coach Mark Howell has guided his team back to the conference finals, and in doing so, back to the national tournament where both the Bears and Dinos will represent the conference in Fredericton in two weeks time.



the Stampede City where Howell has changed what was a culture of mediocrity — Calgary missed the playoffs for the first time in 24 years the season prior to Howell stepping behind the bench — into a program that will be back on the national stage for the first time since 2000.

"There's more discipline on the ice and off the ice. There's more structure to how we act as a team, play as a team, and I think our guys are now starting to really grasp what it means to live the type of lifestyle that we expect," Howell said.

With a new attitude surrounding the program, the only thing that stands between the Dinos and their first Canada West title in the 21st century is the U of A Bears. While both teams are destined for the University Cup tournament, Calgary would love nothing more than to make a splash nationally by dethroning the conference champion Bears at Clare Drake Arena.

"For us I don't look at it as pressure, I look at it as an opportunity, because we haven't been there in 15 years. Our guys are really excited about it. They want to prove that they're becoming an elite program, and have become an elite program, and to do that we want to go to the national tournament as Canada West champs."

head coach Eric Thurston.

Just as important to Calgary's impressive run has been the conference's top goaltender Dustin Butler, who led Canada West in both goals-against average and save percentage.

"With Butler, you have to get traffic in front — you have to make it uncomfortable for him. There's very few rebounds or second chances. Calgary does a great job of collapsing [in front of the net]. Their defence does a good job of clearing men out, and making sure [Butler] controls those rebounds and the puck."

If the Dinos hope to claim their program's ninth conference title, they'll need to make sure they shut down the Bears dynamic duo of conference-leading scorers Derek Ryan and Chad Klassen — something Calgary did successfully in the final regular season meetings between the squads.

"The last two times we played Alberta we won both those games, and I thought we did a way better job of matching their speed, and matching their intensity for the puck," said Dinos head coach Mark Howell.

It's been a renaissance of sorts in

# X marks the spot for Pandas championship objectives

## basketball preview

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

The University of Alberta Pandas basketball team will face the unknown when they tip off against the St. Francis Xavier X-Women this weekend in Ottawa.

In a single elimination matchup, the Green and Gold will play their first game in team history ever against St. FX — a squad whose unique style could give the Pandas nightmares on the court. However, despite the uncertainty that his squad will face this weekend, Pandas head coach Scott Edwards is optimistic the Pandas can navigate their way to success.

“We have to watch video and do the best we can to prepare our kids,” Edwards said. “Just looking on paper, we are a much bigger team, we’ve got to play inside. We don’t usually get to [be] the bigger team, so it will be kind of fun that way. We have a size advantage, but they have a quickness advantage and they press a lot, so we have to do a good job taking care of the ball.”

Those tasks are easier said than done for the struggling court Pandas. After losing their last two games, and with only 10 players suiting up for competition, the Green and Gold’s mental and physical fortitude will be put to the test against the X-Women as they attempt to qualify for their first national championship appearance in more than five years.

The X-Women’s unique style of play is heavily based on their quickness. Without any players over six feet tall, the Nova Scotia-based squad test their opponents with a hard-nosed full-court press and a pesky defence that not many varsity teams in Western Canada — a division where

success usually comes with triumph in the paint — are accustomed to playing.

“It’s probably to the advantage, in those matchups, to teams who play a unique style. For that reason, I would give the advantage a little bit to FX,” Edwards admitted. “They do some things that a lot of teams out here just do not do. They are smaller than any team in Canada West, so they’ll be difficult for us to play. Whereas for them, they’ve always been small, so they know how to play against bigger teams.”

But the Pandas might have a secret up their sleeve. With two graduating seniors, Marisa Haylett and Alycia Rissling, facing the possibility that their careers will end without ever standing on a podium at nationals, the Pandas coaching staff have used their veterans’ desperation for a national medal as a motivating tool for the entire team. As Edwards explained, rallying around their seniors has provoked the entire team to play with a sense of urgency that’s critical to be successful in the playoffs.

“We want our season to be as long as Marisa and Alycia want it to be. Our seniors are really competitive kids. They love their teammates and they want to play as many games as they can to finish off their careers. We can use that to our advantage a little bit. I think the girls know it, they’re excited about it, and they’d really like to see their seniors off with a medal,” Edwards said.

Even freshman point guard Sally Hillier, who still has four more years of eligibility with the Green and Gold, has bought into the team’s burning desire for national triumph.

“I want to win really badly for Alycia and Marisa. I have a huge amount of respect for them and what they’ve been through,” Hillier said. “To cap off their careers with a national championship banner is something that we all want for them.”



FILE PHOTO: ARMAND LUDICK

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# Is it about time that professional hockey takes a hike?

The Oilers need to move to a tax haven — for their own good



MATT  
HIRJI  
point

**I**t's about time for the Oilers to pack up and leave. No, not just for another disgraceful road-trip. They need to pack their bags and vacate this stinking city.

The Copper and Gold have embarrassed this city for long enough. For years, I've been forced to watch 20 players step on the ice full of disdain for having to play in this city. It makes me nauseous.

Man was not meant to live in a climate like Edmonton's. Walking across High Level Bridge these days gives me an ominous feeling that I'll die of frostbite 100 feet above the North Saskatchewan River.

And now we're forcing these multi-millionaires to live in this horrific climate? If I've learned anything in my life, it's that people with money — nay jocks with cash-money — are better than the rest of us uncouth savages. While we might deserve to suffer through -50C weather, these hockey chosen-ones certainly do not.

Athletes like Taylor Hall can't be seen shopping for their luxury Lamborghini's and Louis Vuitton bags at West Edmonton Mall. Hall needs to be acquiring his luxury goods in style on Rodeo Drive with Chris Pronger by his side.

If the Oilers winning record this year is any indication, it's clear that they just don't care to be here anymore. But can you really blame them. Edmonton is no place for the rich. For their own rich person happiness, the Oilers need to abandon their decrepit stadium and start playing hockey where fancy-pants people belong — on a luxury yacht in the South Pacific, or at least Winnipeg.

No matter how bad the Oilers play, Rexall Place is the city's heart



ALEXANDRIA  
ELDRIDGE  
counterpoint

**I**t's absolutely ridiculous to suggest that the Oilers move out of Edmonton — and I'm not saying this because I'm a hockey fanboy. In fact, I could care less about going to watch the Oilers. The bottom line is, from a business perspective, the team has a superb market here in Edmonton. They may consistently lose, but fans will still pay rocket-high ticket prices and Rexall Place will sell out every game.

Since at least the 2006-07 season, the Oilers have had an average 100 per cent home attendance record. Every ticket for the 16,839 seats in

Rexall Place are sold, which is making the franchise a pretty penny. Not only does the organization pack the house, but they can charge a fortune for the tickets and people will pay it. It costs more for a standing room ticket in Edmonton than it does to buy the worst seats at Madison Square Garden in New York City — the mecca of North American athletics.

The Edmonton Oilers may not be the most valuable team in the league, but in a city of one million people, I think Edmonton is doing well competing with Canadian cities the size of Toronto and Montreal in terms of valuation of the team. The Oilers annual revenue since 2006 has been consistently hovered around \$80 million a year.

Beyond smart business, there's another reason for the Oilers to stay in this city. Edmonton is a hockey city and any player coming here would appreciate the dedicated fan base, despite the cold temperatures they have to put up with. Winnipeg may have a proven hockey fan base, but Edmonton has the same, so the Oilers should undoubtedly stay right where they are.



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**E**ntries will be judged on both creativity and style by a panel of editors. Submissions must be original and must not have been published elsewhere. **Please submit entries to literarycontest@gateway.ualberta.ca with the subject head "Gateway Literary Contest."** and the category you're entering. Please include your name, program, and year with your entry. Contestants may only enter each category once.

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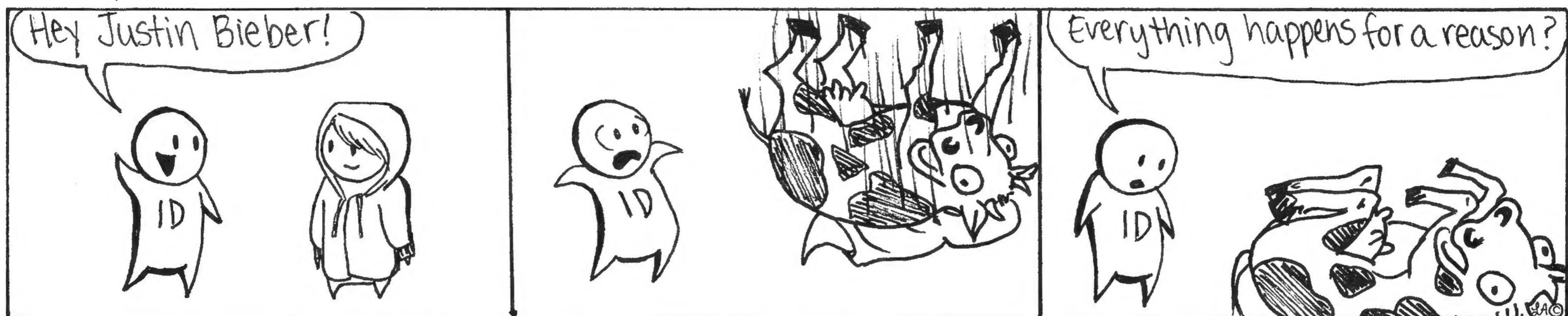
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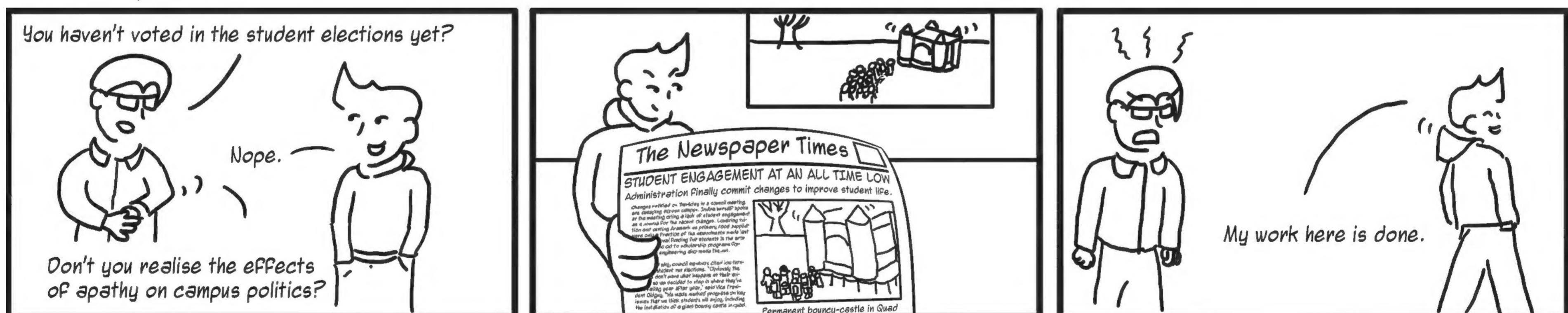
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